



RSVP News

RSVP – Responding to a Call to Serve

Spring 2008

FROM THE RSVP PROJECT DIRECTOR

Dear RSVP Volunteer,

*The hours are in, the figures have been tallied and I'm happy to inform you that our numbers are up! RSVP volunteers worked a total of 117,938 hours in 2007. That is an increase of almost 30,000 hours from 2006. The number of registered RSVP volunteers totaled 761 in 2007, as compared to 704 in 2006. While we add and delete volunteers from our roster on a regular basis, it is interesting to note that **we registered 186 new volunteers** in 2007 — I believe that is a record! Thanks to all of you who have been promoting RSVP to your friends and thanks to all of the wonderful stations where you work for their increased commitment to RSVP.*

*The call is out for nominations for the **11th Annual Path of Achievement Awards** honoring county residents age 60 and up, whose work and spirit have led to special accomplishment in personal and community endeavors. The awards will recognize residents from among five categories—Advocacy, Arts & Humanities, Community Service, Sports & Fitness, and Workplace Contributions. I encourage you to submit nominations for this award. It is an incredible opportunity to highlight and recognize the accomplishments of your peers. Forty-nine seniors have received the award and each is an outstanding role model for others. To access the nomination form, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer or call the Volunteer Center office at 240-777-2600. The deadline for nominations is **March 14, 2008**.*

Thank you, as always, for all of our hard work.

Sincerely,

Ann B. Evans

Senior Leadership Montgomery

Application Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2008

In search of an inspired group of men and women, ages 55 and older, to participate in the 2008-2009 class of Senior Leadership Montgomery (SLM). If you, or people you know, are looking for new opportunities to share your wisdom and talent, give back to the community, and meet like-minded people, then come to an information session to learn about the program or check out our website: www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org

This is what program participants said about their experience:

"I met energetic and creative people who shared my interests and challenged me to explore new activities."

"I applied for the program because now I am using my time to zero in on the things that mean the most to me."

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Thursday, March 27th 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Mid-County Regional Center
2424 Reedie Drive, Wheaton, MD

Wednesday, April 30th 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Greater B-CC Chamber Of Commerce
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1204, Bethesda, MD

To attend, please call 301-881-3333 or email esther.newman@leadermont.org

IRS NEWS: Economic Stimulus Rebate

Starting in May, the Treasury will begin sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million households.

To receive a payment, taxpayers must have a valid Social Security number, \$3,000 of income and file a 2007 federal tax return. Many people who receive Social Security benefits are not required to file a tax return but they need to this year to get the stimulus payment. Many can use the simpler Form 1040A.



IRS Telephone Assistance: 1-800-829-1040
website: www.irs.gov



Older adults, who have lost their ability to drive, still need to get around. Public transportation is not an option for some of the frail and disabled seniors. They need an escort or a stable arm to hold on to as they walk and wait in the physician's office. *The Senior Connection* needs volunteers to drive one older adult to one medical appointment for one day a week. Time commitments are flexible. Volunteers are given orientation, training and provided with liability insurance coverage during their volunteer hours and travel costs are tax-deductible.

Last year, 113 volunteers provided direct services to 737 older persons on more than 6,800 different occasions in lower Montgomery County. To volunteer or learn more about these services, call Wanda Campbell at 301-962-0820 or email seniorconnectionmc@gmail.com

UPCOMING SEASON OF SERVICE: EARTH DAY!

On April 26th and 27th, nonprofit agencies, community groups, and County departments will host various Earth Day volunteer activities throughout the County.

This is a great opportunity for you, your family, friends, and neighbors to give back to your community and help the environment at the same time. Check out the opportunities at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer or call us at 240-777-2600.



BONE BUILDERS BREAKTHROUGH!

Brand New Leaders Abound!



Martine Brizius, Deborah Brown, Joan Cleary, Marilyn Clemens, and Sandi Dew were all trained in January to lead Bone Builders classes. By joining existing Bone Builders classes in Takoma Park, Chevy Chase and Silver Spring, these leaders are fine-tuning their skills and getting stronger themselves. These and other trainees may also help with a new class now being planned for Potomac.

Congratulations to *Pedro Herrera*, who has led the Germantown group for a full year. Also, long-time leader *Jerry Palazzo* will now assist with program support and new volunteer training. Thanks Jerry!

Interested in learning about **free Bone Builders classes** at sites in Chevy Chase, Germantown, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and – coming soon – Potomac? Contact Shawn Brennan, MSW, at 240-777-1350 or shawn.brennan@montgomerycountymd.gov

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMEN GET THE “BENNETT BLITZ”

Volunteers with Montgomery County's highly regarded Long Term Care Ombudsman program work as long term care advocates in nursing homes. Many of the volunteers have served for years ... but not all of them are RSVPers. Perish the thought!

Well, their Program Manager Eileen Bennett made it her mission to change that. *Et voilà* – the Bennett Blitz! She more than doubled her RSVP members by a personal appeal to each ombudsman. She is some sweet talker! A warm welcome to all our RSVP ombudsman and heartfelt thanks to Eileen!

If you want to learn more about the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, contact Eileen Bennett at 240-777-1067 or Eileen.Bennett@montgomerycountymd.gov

Let's Get Mobilized!

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center, along with seven other jurisdictions in the region, is holding a Volunteer Mobilization Center exercise to train volunteer staff and test coordination between the partners. The volunteer mobilization center is used during disasters to process spontaneous volunteers and send them to areas of need. We are holding the exercise at the Wheaton Library on March 18, 2008, from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm.

We still need **more volunteers** to participate as volunteer mobilization center staff. Volunteers do not have to participate in the entire exercise; even one hour would be greatly appreciated! The Volunteer Center will be evaluated on this exercise, and volunteer participation and feedback is critical. To sign up, please contact Michael Goldfarb at 240-777-2621 or Michael.Goldfarb@montgomerycountymd.gov

Our Parks are Being Invaded by ALIENS!

Join the countywide *Garlic Mustard Challenge* and help clear this invasive weed from parklands. Gather your family, friends, club and neighbors and come help! When you are finished pulling weeds, bring your bags of garlic mustard to one of the on-site weigh in stations. If you or your group pulls the most garlic mustard by weight, you win a **Grand Prize!** All those who pull will receive a participation prize!

Sligo Creek & Long Branch

April 19 9:00 am – 11:00 am
April 20 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Capital Crescent Trail, Little Bennett Regional Park, North West Branch Stream Valley Park

April 26 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Black Hill Visitor Center, Brookside Gardens, Locust Grove Nature Center, Maydale Nature Center, Meadowside Nature Center

April 26 Noon – 1:30 pm

For details, contact Lynette Scaffidi at lynette.scaffidi@mncppc-mc.org or 301-949-0223.



Interages, Inc. matches adults age 50+ with students for our intergenerational school-based programs. We

offer our volunteers training, materials, and ongoing staff support. This spring, we're piloting two new volunteer opportunities:

High School Lunchtime Mentoring

Lunchtime mentoring with students at Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Churchill High Schools. Mentors are matched with one student to provide a listening ear, friendship and encouragement in accessing school and community resources.

Tutoring In Takoma Park and Silver Spring

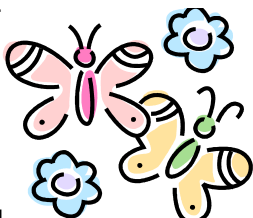
After school, evening, and/or weekend tutoring for children from low-income families. Meet with the same student weekly, and choose a tutoring time to fit your schedule. Locations in Silver Spring/Takoma Park.

Interested in these or other *Interages* opportunities? Contact Sara Cartmill, Program Director, 301-949-3551, X19 or Cartmill@interagesmd.org or visit our website, www.interagesmd.org

Wings of Fancy 2008

Live Butterfly Exhibit at Brookside Gardens

Brookside Gardens seeks volunteer Docents, Tour Guides, House Gardeners and Ticket Takers for the *Wings of Fancy* Butterfly Exhibit, which runs from May 3 - September 21, 2008.



Training is provided online and

in person. Butterfly Basic Training starts April 1st.

Contact: Ellen Hartranft, Volunteer Coordinator
phone: 301-962-1429

email: MCP-GardenVolunteer@mncppc-mc.org

website: www.brooksidegardens.org

MEALS ON WHEELS OF TAKOMA PARK ON A ROLL WITH RSVP!

Welcome to new RSVP members at Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park:

Barbara Boehne, Betty Fredericks,

Janet & John Lastova, Anita

Manning, Scott Mills, Bobbie Mischler,

Peggy O'Brien, Verna Phibbs,

Gerald Reichlin, Margaret Schweitzer*,*

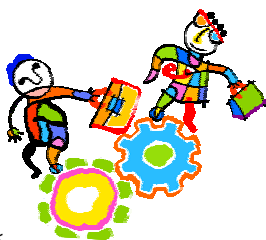
Linda Simon, Barbara & Paul Smith,

Elaine & Fred Southerland, and Bob Stoltz. *Both Gerald

and Margaret are already RSVP members with other

stations. And thanks to their fearless leader, *Jill Feasley,*

for handling all those RSVP applications so effectively.



From the RSVP Coordinator

Recently at a Senior Corps meeting, I learned the #1 reason for volunteering – being asked! The #1 reason for stopping – not being thanked!

Well, you can see all the “asking” in this issue. Volunteer opportunities abound! And then there’s the SWAT Team where we just keep asking ... and you just keep helping out!

This year, National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 28th – May 3rd. It’s a time to celebrate volunteers and thank them for all they do. One week is not long enough! You should be celebrated and thanked *every single day* for making the time to make a difference in our community. **Thank you for all you do!**



Now, it is with a sad heart I share the recent passing of two wonderful RSVPers:

Marilyn Burdett died suddenly in December. She led Holiday Park Senior Center’s RSVP Workgroup of talented and dedicated knitters. She was also a faithful volunteer in our office; I called her our birthday card “fairy godmother.” Yes, that was her exquisite penmanship on your RSVP birthday cards!

Bernie Trimble died suddenly in February. Another Holiday Park mover and shaker, he had been newly elected to their Board in the fall. He was also volunteering with the Tax-Aide Program.

Our hearts go out to their families and friends.

Take time to enjoy each spring day,

Kathleen

Kathleen Meaney Stobie



RSVP News is published quarterly.

Our Summer issue will be out on June 1, 2008.

The deadline for articles is Friday, May 9, 2008.

Your input is welcome!

Save a tree! Get your RSVP News online.

Email Kathleen:

Kathleen Meaney Stobie

phone: 240-777-2611 fax: 240-777-260

email: kathleen.stobie@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Volunteer Center
RSVP – Responding to a Call to Serve
401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Celebrate Earth Day with a weekend's wealth of volunteering -- April 26 & 27, 2008

► **RSVP CALL-IN HOURS LINE 240-777-2616 ... it's 24/7!** ◀

RSVP News is now on the Montgomery County website!

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/Content/Volunteer/RSVP.asp>



What's SWAT? Seniors With Available Time!

In our Spring 2005 newsletter, we ran the following "want ad":

RSVP SWAT TEAM

Montgomery County RSVP is organizing a SWAT (Seniors with Available Time) Team. Frequently, nonprofit organizations and government agencies contact us to see if we have volunteers available for short-term projects or events. Projects include conference registrations, special events, mass mailings, etc. If you are willing and available to be contacted on short notice when we receive such a request, we encourage you to join our SWAT team.

From that initial call for help three years ago, our SWAT Team has grown to a group of 53 ready, willing and able RSVPers who are just an email away when those 11th hour requests for help come in.

In 2007, SWAT Team requests included assembling Boy Scout popcorn sales packets, staffing a table at the *Magical Montgomery* Arts Fair, selling hot dogs at a Capital Area Food Bank fundraiser, sorting books for Montgomery General Hospital's book fair, and helping needy families at the Volunteer Center's Holiday Giving program. When a request goes out, team members respond individually as

their schedules allow. They do what they can when they can.

SWAT Team member Caroline Touchton says:

I love the variety of experiences offered by the SWAT team. It works with my schedule since it's last minute and I know if I'm busy or can go. I loved talking to all the people who stopped by the booth at Magical Montgomery where we let the kids decorate lunch bags for Meals on Wheels. It's a fun way to meet new people.

If you like those one-time opportunities, why not consider joining the SWAT Team?

Email: kathleen.stobie@montgomerycountymd.gov

RIDE ON NOW FREE FOR SENIORS 24/7!

Great news! Since January 1, 2008, Ride On Bus and some Metrobuses in Montgomery County are free for seniors ALL THE TIME! Seniors must be 65 or older and have a valid Metro Senior ID or Medicare card with photo ID. Questions? Please contact the Transit Information Center at 240-777-7433.